KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

JULY 2011

Edited by
DR. BILL BRYANT AND KAREN DOMER

KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT: LOOKING BACK WITH PRIDE, AND FORWARD TO A NEW ERA OF SERVICE TO THE KANSAS ANIMAL INDUSTRY

By Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Bill Brown

The Kansas Animal Health Department has merged with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, after 127 years as a stand-alone Agency, serving and protecting the Kansas livestock industry and its stakeholders.

As of July 1, 2011, an Executive Reorganization Order culminated in the Kansas Animal Health Department becoming *Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health*.

Although our name has changed, our mission has not. It is still the intent of (now) KDA's Division of Animal Health to provide Kansas with the best possible animal health care and oversight.

The physical move to the Kansas Dept of Agriculture was accomplished the last two weeks of June in a smooth and efficient manner. We apologize if you may have experienced any inconvenience in trying to reach us over the past few weeks as we were in a state of transition from our old office to our new location. We are now settled in at Department of Agriculture.

We have retained our previous phone numbers, but we do have a new mailing address. Below is our new contact information with an updated website address. Animal Health staff emails are now firstname.lastname@kda.ks.gov. We want to remain accessible and responsive to any questions or problems you might have.

While our division staff is smaller than our previous organizational structure as the Kansas Animal Health Department, we now have access to more total people as we're able to capitalize on the legal, fiscal, and communication resources in the Department of Agriculture. In the near future, we would like to increase our veterinary staff to accommodate larger workloads. We have recently advertised five additional veterinary positions. These include an Animal Facilities Inspection Program Manager, Animal Health Planner, Field Veterinarian, Staff Veterinarian, and Deputy Commissioner.

We have several ongoing and new initiatives and projects, which involve Animal Disease Traceability and Animal Health Planning. Look for them elsewhere in this newsletter.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Animal Health
109 S.W. 9th Street 4th Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612
Phone: 785-296-2326
Fax: 785-296-1765
http://www.ksda.gov/animal/

DR. KIM KIRKHAM NAMED AS KANSAS' AREA VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE

Effective April 10, 2011, Dr. Kim Kirkham was named by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) as Kansas' Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC). She replaced Dr. David Vogt who retired after a long and distinguished career of service with USDA.

Dr. Kirkham began working for Veterinary Services as a student while attending Veterinary School at Kansas State University and served on the Exotic Newcastle Disease taskforce. She joined VS full time after graduation in 2003 as a field Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) in Tennessee, where she served as the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy coordinator. For the last 5 ½ years she has been a Supervisory VMO in Kansas. She has managed the Brucellosis Laboratory in the past; oversaw the robust Import-Export Section and BSE surveillance in Kansas and still serves as Deputy Plans Chief on a VS Incident Management Team. In 2009, she completed the APHIS Leadership Development Program. Dr. Kirkham is consistently recognized for her excellent customer service and stakeholder engagement.

Dr. Kirkham was raised on a farm near Chapman, Kansas. She and her husband Kelly live on a small custom cattle backgrounding operation near Valley Falls, Kansas. They have been married 13 years and have two daughters; Kassidy 3, and Kamryn 2.

Congratulations to Dr. Kirkham! Kansas is fortunate to have her as our AVIC, and we hope it will be a long relationship!

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S

***DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH*:**

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE!

Building an Animal Disease Traceability program for Kansas

Implementation of USAHerds

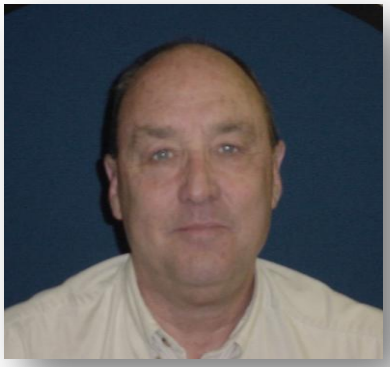
Expanded use of Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

Collaborating with other States to advance Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness

DR. PHIL ERWIN RETIRES FROM USDA APHIS VS

By Sam Graham, DVM

On December 31, 2010; Dr. Phil Erwin (Wellington, Ks.) retired after 38 years of service as a Veterinary Medical Officer with USDA-APHIS veterinary services.



Dr. Erwin was active in livestock disease eradication, not only in Kansas, but also through travel to many other states and internationally as emergencies dictated.

Dr. Erwin understood the livestock industry and never forgot his responsibility to serve the producer while implementing disease eradication solutions. He never compromised his principals and always did what he understood to be the right thing. He was both a respected leader and a valued team member. Additionally, it was never boring when he was around! He will be long remembered for his efforts to establish and maintain the cooperative relationship between Kansas Animal Health Department and USDA-APHIS. Thanks from all of us, Phil!

SURVEYS WILL CONTINUE AS TRICHOMONIASIS IS REPORTED

By Bill Bryant, DVM
KDA Div. of A.H. State Field Veterinarian

Reported cases of Trichomoniasis (Trich) will be followed up on. State and federal field staffs are now conducting epidemiological surveys involving both the producer and the attending veterinarian to gain as much information about the disease and its spread as possible. From 1994 through 2009, cases in Kansas had only been reported in 17 of our 105 counties. In 2010, Trich was diagnosed in nine additional counties with four more new counties added so far in 2011. Granted, the number of increased cases may be due to increased reporting requirements, but at least some are due to better producer awareness of the disease.

One producer reported reading an article about Trichomoniasis in a trade magazine and wondering if it had anything to do with his decreased calf crop the prior year. When he followed up on the idea by having his bulls Trich-tested by his veterinarian; sure enough the PCR test that was done came back positive. Later tests also revealed positives in several other bulls in his herd.

Trichomoniasis is an infectious disease, but it is not highly contagious since it is transmitted only through sexual contact. Surveying the current cases may or may not reveal the source of the infection, but our hope is that in at least some instances the information gathered will help contain the spread of the disease. We appreciate the cooperation of producers and veterinarians alike as we conduct our investigations.

Call Ahead – Call Ahead – Call Ahead! While we're on this subject, this is just a friendly reminder to call ahead for current importation requirements by the state of destination prior to writing that Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Regulations change from time to time, so it is not wasted effort to call to confirm what testing is required before the actual inspection of the shipment.

Did you know that Missouri now requires Trichomoniasis testing on breeding bulls entering their state, and that Colorado has lowered their test age on bulls to 12 months? I think that's right, but you might call ahead just to make sure!

FERAL HOGS IN KANSAS UPDATE

By John Johnson, Wildlife Biologist
USDA Wildlife Services

The current estimate of the Kansas Feral Swine population is about 600-700 hogs. Wildlife Services is presently trapping thirteen separate populations in 15 different counties in eastern Kansas. Mr. Curran Salter, a wildlife biologist, is also actively working on seven different populations in ten counties in western Kansas.

Wildlife Services (WS) has removed some 2,300 feral swine from the state of Kansas in the past five years. These numbers are based on populations that Wildlife Services is aware of, and is probably very conservative. There are an ever-growing number of illegal releases, and in many cases authorities do not find out about them for some time. The simple logistics of two people covering such a vast area are becoming more and more problematic as time goes on. We have been very successful in the areas we have been working; WS has effectively eradicated and removed four separate populations totally, and is very close on another four populations.

Immediate needs are better information, enforcement of current legislation, trained ground help and funding.

CANINE BRUCELLOSIS

By Paul Grosdidier, DVM
KDA Div. of A.H. State Field Veterinarian

Canine brucellosis is a bacterial disease of dogs that causes abortions, most frequently in the last trimester of gestation, and infertility in both males and females. Once infected, animals normally remain infected for years or even life. Transmission can occur in nearly any way that fluids or tissue from an infected dog are introduced into a non-infected dog. It most commonly happens during breeding, but may just as easily occur when any semen, blood, vaginal discharge, placental or fetal material from an infected dog is ingested by another. This means that dogs that should happen to step in or lay in infected material can become infected when they ingest the infected fluid while grooming, or even by licking the infected tissue from the clothing of owners or workers who handle them. Commonly, infected females may abort one or more times, only to later raise normal litters; thus giving people the false impression that they are free of disease. Females can still become pregnant from infected males, but likely will become infected as a result.

If you think this will not happen to you, think again. Last year at least 8 kennels were found to have brucellosis infection. In such a situation, this disease can be difficult and costly to eliminate. It can be transmitted to humans as well, although severe infection seldom occurs in people. Clinical signs in people include non-specific signs such as nausea, recurrent fever, abdominal pain and headaches.
Some sensible precautions to prevent brucellosis introduction into your breeding dogs include:
Know your source for breeding stock.
Test all incoming breeders (prior to entry) for brucellosis.
Quarantine all negative animals a minimum of 30 days and retest negative before introducing them as breeders to your operation.
Test all females that abort for canine brucellosis.
Test all males that have become infertile for canine brucellosis.

---As with most diseases, a little prevention is much less costly than a lot of cure---

Website for KSU's
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Newsletter
http://www.vet.k-state.edu/ksvdl
Click on "News and Events" and then "Diagnostic Insights"

KANSAS VETERINARY RESPONSE CORPS NEWS

By Karen Domer
Animal Health Planner

Since January 2011, the Staffs of Division of Animal Health (KS Department of Agriculture) and USDA APHIS VS and Kansas State University collaborated to do two separate trainings for Foreign Animal Disease Response with members of the Kansas Veterinary Response Corps (KVRC).

Some of the subjects covered were: IS 402 Course, Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Roles and Responsibilities for Veterinarians, National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) and Member Deployment issues, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) response aspects, National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Review & a virtual tour of the K-State Bio-security Research Institute (BRI), economic & emotional effects of a FAD, and hands-on training including use of Captive Bolt guns for euthanasia, preservation & shipping of disease test samples, donning & doffing of Personal Protective Equipment, and avian disease testing, euthanasia and necropsy.

A total of 113 members of the Kansas Veterinary Response Corps participated. We are planning our next FAD training for KVRC this coming winter at Kansas State.

KANSAS PARTICIPATING IN THE SHEEP 2011 NAHMS STUDY

By Don Evans, DVM
USDA APHIS VS EPIDEMIOLOGY OFFICER

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (Division of Animal Health) and USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services field personnel conducted a second phase of the Sheep 2011 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Study through Mid-June, 2011.

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. Randomly selected producers choosing to participate in the study were visited by representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service from January through February 2011. During this visit, an on-site questionnaire was administered. Eligible producers were asked to participate in the second phase of the study. From March 2011 to June 2011 Veterinary Medical Officers and/or Animal Health Technicians visited producers who participated in the second phase to administer questionnaires and collect biological samples.

The NAHMS Sheep 2011 study addresses the priority issues of the U.S. sheep industry and its stakeholders. Kansas is one of 22 States that is participating in the study. These States represent 70 percent of U.S. sheep flocks and 85 percent of U.S. sheep. The Sheep 2011 study will:

- Describe trends in sheep health and management practices from 1996 to 2011.
- Describe management and bio-security practices used to control common infectious diseases, including Scrapie, Ovine Progressive Pneumonia, Johne's Disease, and Caseous Lymphadenitis.
- Estimate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and anthelmintic resistance.
- Estimate the prevalence of *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* in domestic sheep flocks. Relate presence of the organism in blood and nasal secretions to clinical signs and demographic and management factors.
- Facilitate the collection of information and samples regarding the causes of abortion storms in sheep.
- Determine producer awareness of the zoonotic potential of Contagious Ecthyma (sore mouth) and the management practices used to prevent transmission of the disease.
- Provide serum to include in the serological bank for future research.

NEW FREE BOOKLET DETAILS JOHNE'S DISEASE IN GOATS

By Bill Bryant, DVM
Johne's Program Coordinator

Although it is not known how widespread Johne's Disease is in goats in the United States, the infection has been confirmed in many goat herds throughout the country in milk, meat, heritage and other breeds. The cost of this infection in goats range from economic losses due to reduced production and increased culling for meat and milk animals to emotional losses for those whose goats are more pets than agricultural investments.

A new 16-page booklet developed by the National Johne's Education Initiative in cooperation with USDA-APHIS-VS, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison shares facts about Johne's Disease as it applies to goats and goat owners.

"We are excited to have a booklet that is totally focused on Johne's Disease as it relates to the goat population and goat owners," states Dr. Elisabeth Patton, chairman of U.S. Animal Health Association's Johne's Disease Committee. "There is no cure for Johne's Disease, and there is not an

approved vaccine for goats in the United States to help protect them from infection. Therefore, education about Johne's Disease, and the prevention of Johne's Disease, is extremely important."
Goat owners and veterinarians can obtain a free copy of the new Johne's Disease Goat Q&A booklet by contacting their state-designated Johne's Coordinator, Dr. Don Evans, USDA/APHIS/VS in Kansas, calling the National Institute for Animal Agriculture at (719) 538-8843 or by ordering a booklet online at http://www.johnesdisease.org.

The Spring Editions of the Johne's Beef and Dairy Newsletter that are put out by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) are now available also at the www.johnesdisease.org. Summer editions will be out soon. Check out this site for all kinds of Johne's information. It is quite a trip. Travel there and look around if you haven't visited before.

EXPORT UPDATES

From the Export Desk at USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

***Please see the following, recent update from the National Center for Import/Export in Riverdale, Maryland. This update is regarding the export of pets to the European Union countries.

Microchip implantation must occur PRIOR to rabies vaccination. Any rabies vaccination that occurs prior to microchip implantation is not considered valid regardless of whether the animal was up-to-date on its previous rabies vaccines. If a microchip is being implanted for the first time, 21 days must have elapsed after rabies vaccination before the animal is eligible to enter the European Union.

The Kansas Area Office now accepts credit card (GovPay) as a method of payment for user fee services, including inspections associated with import/export and fees associated with endorsement of international health certificates.
In addition, the APHIS 7001 (Interstate/International Health Certificate for Small Animals) is now available in an electronic, fillable format. Practitioners can obtain the form at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/APHIS7001.pdf , or by calling our office at (785)270-1300 to have it e-mailed directly.

We continue to see shipments of live cattle from the state of Kansas to Canada, Mexico and Russia. Please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Kirkham or your local APHIS veterinarian regarding these exports should you have any questions or concerns as you prepare for these shipments. Keep in mind that Russia requires a battery of tests and vaccinations as well as a 21-day pre-export isolation. Timing, identification and coordination of all activities are essential.

We continue to receive questions from exporters and brokers regarding the direct shipment of live cattle from Kansas to Turkey. Cattle cannot be directly exported from our state due to the level of incidence of Bluetongue Disease virus in Kansas. Kansas is considered a "medium incidence" state, thus cattle would need to be shipped to a "low incidence" state for an extended quarantine and testing regime prior to shipment to Turkey.

On March 9, 2011, China re-opened its market for U.S. origin swine with a temporary attestation regarding freedom of novel A/H1N1 influenza.

KAHD Brand Inspector Thompson Retires after 42 Years!

Hamilton County resident and local KAHD Brand Inspector Harold Thompson was recently presented with a plaque of appreciation from Kansas Animal Health Department for his many years of dedication to the Kansas Livestock Industry.

Thompson commented, "The best part of this job has been meeting a lot of good people."

The plaque was presented on behalf of KAHD by Steve Wilterding, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services.

ATTENTION ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS: REMINDERS!

From USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

Testing required for interstate, intrastate and international movements in order to be considered an "Official Test" require that the tested animals be officially identified. Official identification is defined within each program's Uniform Methods and Rules.

The 2003 Brucellosis Uniform Methods and Rules requires the following means of identifying animals for an official test – "Cattle and/or bison included in a herd test must be identified with an official ear tag, an individual animal's registration tattoo, registration brand, or the registration number of a breed association recognized by Veterinary Services".

The 2005 Bovine Tuberculosis Uniform Methods and Rules states that official identification of livestock is by means of an official ear tag, registration tattoo, or brand or any other method approved by the APHIS Administrator, that provides unique ID for each animal. All cattle or bison tested shall be officially identified at the time an official tuberculosis test is conducted.

Calfhood Vaccination

Official calfhood vaccinates—Calfhood-vaccinated animals must be permanently identified as vaccinates by tattoo and by official vaccination ear tag. If the animal is already identified with an official ear tag before vaccination, an additional official ear tag is not required. Vaccination tattoos must be applied to the right ear. The tattoo will include the U.S. Registered Shield and "V," which will be preceded by a letter "R" and followed by a number corresponding to the last digit of the year in which the vaccination was done. Official vaccination (orange) eartags must be applied to the right ear. The ear tag will include the State prefix and a V, followed by two letters and four numbers that individually identify each vaccinated animal. Individual animal registration tattoos or individual animal registration brands may be used for identifying animals in place of official ear tags if the cattle and/or bison are registered by breed associations recognized by Veterinary Services.

In order for calves to be official calfhood vaccinates, they must be reported at the time of vaccination by submitting a completed VS Form 1–24 or VS Form 1–26 or comparable form to the appropriate State or Federal animal health agency. **Please remember to fill these out fully and accurately, in addition to sending them in within 10 days of completion!**

K-State Veterinarian Encourages Livestock Producers to Watch for Signs of Anthrax after Flooding

Story by Mary Lou Peter
K-State Research and Extension News Media Services Manager

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Flooding along the Missouri and other rivers through the central United States is prompting a call for cattle and other livestock producers to watch for signs of the deadly anthrax bacteria once floodwaters recede.

"Cattle producers in areas along the Missouri River should watch for unexplained cattle deaths which might occur as a result of anthrax spores washing down and being consumed by grazing cattle after the floodwaters recede," said K-State Research and Extension veterinarian Larry Hollis.

"Because the Missouri River is carrying water from the Dakotas where they historically have anthrax just about every summer, anthrax spores may be carried down and end up on flooded Kansas backwater pastures," Hollis said. Spores of other spore-forming organisms, such as the Clostridial specie that causes blackleg, also can be carried to new areas by floodwaters."

Anthrax, which can affect all mammals, is typically acquired by grazing in areas contaminated by spores. Cattle, bison, sheep, goats and horses are particularly susceptible. Anthrax spores are hardy and occur naturally in the soil, where they can survive for decades.

Humans can contract anthrax, but it is unusual to find a human case of anthrax linked to an animal outbreak if proper precautions are taken during the handling of affected carcasses, Hollis said.

Death from anthrax can occur in a matter of hours from the time the first symptoms occur, so a seemingly healthy animal may die before anyone notices clinical signs. Animals that are discovered before dying may appear distressed and have difficulty breathing. Hemorrhaging from the mouth, nose and anus is common. Pigs and carnivores are more resistant to the disease, although they may develop swelling in the neck and throat or have gastrointestinal disturbances.

If a livestock owner suspects anthrax in a live animal, or in the case of a sudden death of unknown cause in previously-flooded areas, he or she should not touch or move the animal. A veterinarian should be called in to investigate the death and determine the proper samples to test for anthrax along with the proper carcass disposal method.

More information about anthrax is available on Kansas State University's National Animal Bio-security Center website: http://nabc.ksu.edu/content/factsheets/category/Anthrax.

HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOM

By Dr. Ingrid Garrison, KDHE
and Dr. Paul Grosdidier, KDA

A higher than normal number of incidences of harmful algae bloom has occurred in a number of state and county lakes this year. These algae (Cyanobacteria also called *blue-green algae*) may produce toxins that can cause varying affects in animals and humans. These clinical signs may vary from mild such as eye and throat irritation and skin rash, to more severe signs such as stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue and flu like symptoms. Animals, especially dogs, can become ill or die as a result of coming into contact with or ingesting contaminated water. This algae is commonly seen in water that has become stagnant (such as in many farm ponds as well).

HEALTH ALERT: TOXIC BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

If you have family members or animals that are showing clinical symptoms that cannot be explained after exposure to stagnant water which may contain the algae bloom, please contact Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics at 1-877-427-7317.

Heard in Passing:

U.S. cattle herd lowest on record, but high cattle on feed numbers surprise analysts

The U.S. fed cattle supply on July 1 was 3.8 percent larger than a year ago as a devastating drought in the U.S. Southwest and high cattle prices pulled young cattle into feedlots.
In a separate report, USDA put the U.S. cattle herd, which includes all cattle inside and outside of feedlots plus calves and dairy cattle, at 100 million head, which was the smallest since mid-year records began in 1973.
USDA reported the July 1 feedlot cattle supply at 10.451 million head, up 3.8 percent from a year ago and the most for that date since 2007. Analysts, on average, expected this number to be up 2.7 per cent.

Primary Site where Foot and Mouth Disease enters cattle

Researchers have found that after just six hours of exposure to the FMD virus through the cow's nasal passages, the Foot and Mouth Disease virus selectively infects epithelial cells in the naso-pharynx, a specific region of the back of the cow's throat.
This discovery was made by scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Foreign Animal Disease Research Unit at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center at Orient Point, N.Y. and could lead to development of new vaccines to control and potentially eradicate FMD, USDA said.
They can now begin to target the virus-host interaction in an effort to develop better vaccines and bio-therapeutic countermeasures against the disease.
The research was published in the November 2010 issue of *Veterinary Pathology* and featured on the cover of that issue.

The pet funeral industry is growing, both in size and understanding

There are more than 750 pet funeral homes, crematories and cemeteries across the country, and funeral directors have come to understand that the loss of a pet can run almost as deep as the loss of a family member. Etiquette expert Mary Mitchell advises people to reach out to bereaved pet owners to express condolences and support, just as they would after the death of a person.

Increase in north Texas rabies cases blamed on drought

The drought in north Texas may be the catalyst for an increase in rabies cases, as veterinarians and state health officials say that rabid wild animals driven by thirst to find water are looking in more populated areas.
There have been 51 cases of rabies in north Texas since January, compared with 25 in the same period in 2010.

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KDA Division of Animal Health
109 S.W. 9th St., 4th Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-2326
and
USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services
1947 N.W. Topeka Blvd., Ste. F
Topeka, Kansas 66608
785-270-1300
Working together to protect the health of Kansas livestock

KDA DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH CONTACTS:
Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Bill Brown
Phone 785-296-2326
State Field Veterinarian Dr. Paul Grosdidier
Phone 785-296-2326
State Field Veterinarian Dr. Bill Bryant
Phone 785-633-3639
Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator
Kendra Frasier Phone 785-230-7381
Permit Desk Phone 785-296-2628
Animal Health Planner Karen Domer 785-368-6512